

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 18, 2007 has been carefully considered.

The specification has been amended to add a reference to the PCT application, and to add subject matter headings.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 112 on several grounds.

Claims 1-4 have now been replaced by new claims 5-12.

The antecedent basis problem has been corrected in the new claims.

As to needling of the fibers, this a well known method for bonding fibers, as discussed at page 3, lines 28-29 of the specification.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Uhlenbrock.

Of the new claims, claims 5-8 are directed to a filter device, and claims 9-12 are directed to a combination of a filter device and an internal combustion engine.

The filter device of the invention has an inlet chamber connected to a crankcase of the engine, and an outlet chamber with an air outlet connected to the inlet manifold of the engine and a liquid outlet connected to the crankcase to return separated oil to the crankcase. A needled or thermally bonded fibrous medium separates the inlet and outlet chambers.

The use of the bonded fibers according to the invention causes small droplets and particulates to combine in the filter, becoming heavier, and passing to the bottom of the filter and out of the liquid outlet. This extends the life of the filter material.

Uhlenbrock does not disclose the bonded filter material, resulting in smaller droplets which remain in and tend to clog the filter material. Moreover, the liquid outlet of

Uhlenbrock is disposed within the inlet chamber. The liquid separated by the filter remains in a reservoir, and is returned to the inlet chamber for return to the crankcase.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Finally, Applicant notes that the application upon which priority has been claimed, SE 0300004.9 was filed on January 2, 2003, which is before the filing date in the US of the Uhlenbrock reference, May 7, 2003. The rejection over Uhlenbrock can therefore be removed by perfecting priority.

Enclosed herewith is a verified translation of the priority application, together with the published drawings from the priority application. Applicant submits that the invention as claimed is fully supported by the priority application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira J. Schultz
Registration No. 28666
Attorney for Applicant
(703) 837-9600, ext. 23